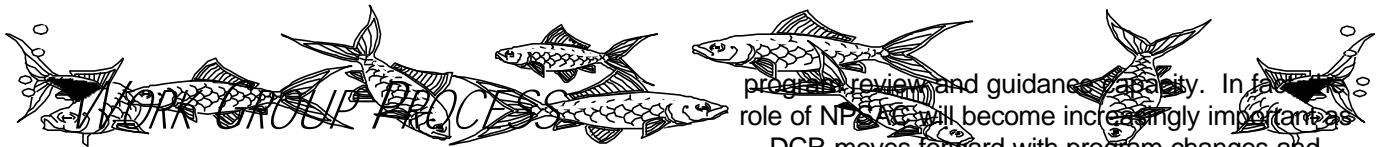


# NPS POLLUTION MANAGEMENT UPDATE PROCESS



A working group process was used to develop this Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program document. It started with the identification of the primary source categories to be addressed during the program update. There were eight source categories initially identified: watershed prioritization, agriculture, forestry, construction and development, monitoring and tracking, resource extraction, hydromodification, and grant and technical assistance coordination.

These categories incorporate and reflect the composition of the previous NPS management update process, the Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program management measure categories, as well as encompassing the majority of priority issues affecting Virginia.

Facilitators of the program update were cognizant of the need to have an open process that provided opportunity for input at all stages of the process from all interested groups. Many state and federal agency staff, local government representatives, planning district commissions, interest groups, and environmental groups were able to participate in the meetings. Many others have provided written comments on materials sent out for review.

During the program update process, NPSAC was briefed several times on the status of the work groups. NPSAC members provided guidance through feedback at meetings, direct member involvement in a work group, or by having other agency staff participate in a work group. NPSAC will continue to function in a

program review and guidance capacity. In fact, the role of NPSAC will become increasingly important as DCR moves forward with program changes and implementation.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation was initiated by a "kick-off" meeting held by DCR in January of 1999. The meeting was well attended and was fully supported by the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources and the Director of DCR. DCR staff compiled a mailing list of state and federal agencies, interest groups, local, state and national environmental groups, and citizens. DCR staff sent invitation letters under the director's signature asking them to attend and participate in the update process. DCR staff described the need to conduct the program update and explained how the work groups would function and what their responsibilities would be. All work group facilitators were introduced to the attendees. In addition, those who attended received a folder containing fact sheets and a sign up sheet for the work group(s) in which they wanted to participate.

Several people contacted DCR stating they were unable to attend the meeting but were interested in participating. In response, DCR mailed meeting fact sheets and followed up with phone calls so as to include participants in the work group of their choice.

Between mid-January and the end of May more than 30 work group and facilitator meetings were held.

The work group participants identified the issues within the source categories, specified working definitions for some of the more difficult issues, identified the goals, objectives, strategies, funding sources, and implementation time frames. Participants were

provided several versions of working drafts for comments. In addition, DCR used its web site to post the meeting minutes, schedules, meeting locations and communication links with the facilitators.